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L: von Schwarz--14a N-5 (ca 1895) 1900 RL1 Turkestan RL1



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485 where there are several water basins. The travelers receive only water in the caravansaries and, for a suitable price, fodder for their beasts; for the lodging itself nothing is paid. / Figure 58. Caption: wooden platform. / Food / 166 / is not provided and the travelers must either provide their own or have it fetched from the bazaar. (Figure 59).

364 What strikes the European as most unpleasant in a Central Asian
366 bazaar is the incredible filth and the intolerable stench which poisons the air everywhere. The water, which runs in countless open canals through almost all the streets, acquires, before it leaves the bazaar, an unbelievable degree of impurity so that it actually stinks. All excrement flows from the street into the canals, the inhabitants perform their incessant ablutions in them as prescribed by the Koran, horses and mangy dogs bathe in them, and the water from these same canals is not only used to sprinkle the streets, but also employed for drinking and for the preparation of food and tea, without even superficial filtering. The butchers slaughter their cattle in the middle of the street and hang the meat on the outside of their booth where it can be seen, just as in other booths clothing, silk cloth, and gold and silver jewelry is displayed. Since the meat begins to spoil in a short time in the great heat there, and furthermore, since it is always entirely covered with flies and other insects, one can imagine what sort of aroma wafts from the butcher's booth. To this is added the smoke and stench of the numerous eating houses, and the drying of the horse and camel manure lying all over the streets, for all the bazaar streets, are covered with riders and caravans from morning till night, but the dung is never removed from the streets.

3. Streets. (Figures 60 to 62, pages 169, 171, 173).

291 One would, perhaps, not believe that a stroll through the
369 streets of a Central Asian town could be as agreeable and entertaining
363 as, for example, here in Munich, a walk along the Maximilianstrasse. Of ladies who are the chief decoration of a European street, there one sees not a trace. Only the initiated knows that under the formless loose tunics stealing furtively through the streets here and there, under which nothing appears but a pair of feet clad in equally formless boots and overshoes, a female creature is concealed; but whether these feet belong to an eighteen year old beauty or an octogenarian Megara, only Allah knows. As for the second adornment (') of European street

[Tashkent]

291 life, the dandy, these are found in the towns of Central Asia indeed as
 363 much as in Europe; but there they do not move about the streets, but sit
 369 about in the bazaar and especially in tea booths. The Central Asian dandies
 differ from their European colleagues, and indeed, not to their disadvantage,
 in several essential points. While the European dandies are distinguished
 by their walking sticks, short /167/ /Figure 59, p. 17a. Caption:
 Caravansary in Bukhara (after a photograph by G. Merzbacher)/ /168/
 stockings and coats, high collars, small hats, heelless pointed shoes,
 and an orangutan-like bearing, their Central Asian colleagues are re-
 cognised by their proud and audacious bearing, their long boots with
 unbelievably high heels no thicker than a finger, short khalats, turbans
 or house caps set at an angle, and the flowers stuck behind their long
 ears.

363 Paving or macadamizing is of course out of the question for the streets
 361 of Turkestan. The street bed consists simply of the ubiquitous loess, and
 is therefore covered in summer with dust half a foot deep, and in winter
 with mud a foot deep, which in the lower places collects in such masses
 that the horses sink in to their bellies and there can be no further
 thought of a pedestrian. Since the streets are primarily traveled by riding
 horses and wagon horses, and by camels, all of which are accustomed
 to following the foot prints of their predecessors, definite footprints
 have been formed in the streets, running across the road, which remind
 one vividly of a potato patch. Travel on such a street even in a
 carriage with springs is very uncomfortable, and, for the equipage itself,
 mortally dangerous, as one can easily imagine. Only the native, wide-
 tracked, two-wheeled wagon with its huge wheels is capable of passing
 along this bumpy road safely.

[491] In the towns, bridges are built only over those of the numerous brooks
 and canals with banks which are too high and steep to walk or ride over
 easily. Otherwise it is left to the pedestrian to get through the water as
 best he can. This is based on the fact that in Turkestan every halfway
 [492] respectable person, man, woman and child is mounted and only the
 poorest beggars and tramps go on foot; for these there is no pity if they
 must walk with bare feet through the ice cold water and the knee-deep
 mud, in the winter.

In Tashkent the streets in the Sart town are considerably better
 than in many other Central Asian towns, but even here the conditions
 are such, that among other things, once eleven women drowned in

363 the main street as a result of an unlucky chance that just as they
361 were passing through a bottomless mire their carriage broke down
and they were unable to work their way out of the soft mud. More
than once have I witnessed riders sunk to the waist in the soft ground,
and once I saved the life of a youth near the bazaar who fell head
first into mud a meter thick when his horse stumbled, and only his
legs stuck out. In most recent times, thanks to the efforts of the
Russian /189/ administration, the street conditions have improved
considerably, but they still leave much to be desired. A fundamental
improvement is impossible /Figure 60. Caption: The main street
of Tashkent. / without quite disproportionate costs, for the loose
base, which becomes bottomless every winter, makes paving and
macadamizing far more /170/ difficult, as the Russians have often
enough discovered in the laying out of the streets in their town.

A basic fault of the Turkestan streets is that, with the exception
of the few main streets, they are so narrow that two carriages cannot
pass each other and always one of the two vehicles which meet must
back up until he succeeds in passing through a side alley. On bazaar
days traffic jams lasting for hours often occur as a result of this. Four-
wheeled wagons cannot be used at all in such narrow alleys because
one cannot turn around with them. This bad situation is clearly
caused by the fact that the street inside the town wall had to be
used sparingly in order not to increase the circumference of the
town walls too much. For otherwise the Central Asian towns have
a disproportionately large expansion since all the houses consist only
of a ground floor, and are always surrounded by more or less extensive
courts and even gardens.

363 If the streets in Central Asian towns are bad enough for these
351 reasons, their unfavorable aspect is increased substantially by the
361 fact that there are no houses along them but only uniform courtyard
walls of yellow clay the endless monotony of which is broken only
here and there by a tiny gate which one would sooner take for the
entrance to a pigsty than to a human dwelling. For the dwelling
houses are all located within the courts, and even the view of the
courts, when one opens the gate off the street, is cut off, for behind
each gate is a special wall. The height of the court walls which en-
close the streets on both sides is arranged so that one cannot see over
even when on horseback or riding a camel; they are, therefore, usu-
ally three to three and a half meters high. The streets which lead
through the dwelling quarter inside the town walls differ in no way

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Fig. 60. The main street of Tashkent.

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from those passing between the gardens and fields outside the circular walls, since the latter are enclosed in walls exactly like those around the dwellings within the town. Therefore, upon entering a strange town the only way to tell whether one is still among the fields and gardens, or already between the rows of houses, is on the basis of whether one has passed through the town gate. In all Central Asian towns the streets are crooked, and continue in a perpetual zigzag, the natives have no notion of a regular arrangement of rows of streets, and preliminary plans in the erection of houses. Only the main streets of Tashkent, which /171/ lead from the bazaar to the outlying districts have a semblance of regularity, although they also possess numerous bends and turns.

The terrible monotony of the streets in Sart Tashkent is only broken here and there by a mosque or 'medrese' /religious school/, by isolated tombs which are found in the middle of the town along the roads, by the rising or downward slope of the ground, and by the many streams, sometimes flowing in deep ravines, which cut across the entire town in all directions. In this respect Tashkent makes a much better impression, in spite of everything, than /Figure 61.^{p. 194} Caption: Street scene in Bukhara (from a photograph by G. Merzbacher)/ most of the other towns of Turkestan, most of which lie in more or less level terrain.

Concerning the traffic in the streets of Tashkent, this differs greatly in different parts of the town. In the side streets one sees only isolated riders or strollers; the main streets leading to the bazaar, especially on market days, are filled all day long with endless lines of camel, horse and donkey caravans, wagons, and riders of horses, donkeys and camels, through which it is often difficult to make one's way, even with the assiduous use of the horsewhip. This means is not used only by the Russians, but also and even more widely by the natives /172/ themselves, for in Turkestan everyone who is prominent, either through rank or wealth, considers himself entitled to enforce his precedence, by the 'ultima ratio' of the 'nagaika,' /whip/ over less fortunate creatures, while the victims of this treatment consider it perfectly in order and use it themselves against those still lower in rank. Yielding is considered a sign of weakness by the Central Asians, and there is no better way of gaining their respect than a show of arrogance and the use of brute force. The Russians, therefore, are born, as it were, to the rule of the Central Asians.

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Fig. 1. Street scene in Bukhara (from a photograph by G. Merzbacher.

341 buildings come out crooked and not beautiful. There are no architects and everyone builds as he knows best. The living quarters are in general somber, damp and dark, which gives birth to eye diseases, in addition to which, 363 the houses are not solid. The streets in the towns are crooked and narrow, so much so that the native vehicle, the two wheeled 'arba', can pass only on the main streets. On the side streets a horseman often has difficulty getting through.

The main streets are sometimes improved with cobblestones, but these pavements rarely protect a town from the mud.

366 Stalls, tea-houses and barber shops extend along both sides of the main street leading from the main gates to the middle of the town, to the trading square. This square is usually called 'rigistan'.

312 The towns and villages are provided with water from 'aryks' (irrigation canals) which also serve to irrigate the neighboring gardens, fields and kitchen gardens. Wells help the aryks as well.

361 The general appearance of the populated places makes a very unattractive impression. The only adornment of Central Asian settlements is a mass of verdure which in most cases covers the towns and villages.

364 The conditions of life in all the settlements are just as inconvenient as the native houses from the hygienic point of view. The population does not worry in the least about

[Vernyy]

361 their steep banks, pathways and narrow roads,
133 the snakes winding over the precipices, all
this makes an unforgettable impression. With
every step the views change, as though in a
kaleidoscope and appear more and more striking
and more effective.

[137] In the Alatau mountains the spruce is
the tree which grows in the greatest abundance.
After it, but much less abundant, are the apple
trees, the apricots, the 'dzhida', the ashtrees,
the juniper and even the birch.

361 The town of Vernyy is divided into the
following parts: the Almata station (the old
part of the town), the Almata settlement, the
Tatar suburb, and Novyy (New town), actually
the town which has developed since the beginning
of the 1870s.

The latter part consists to a consider-
able degree of stone, or, more precisely, brick
buildings, while the old parts of the town are
built up exclusively of spruce wood.

• [363] Both the old and the new town have been
planned regularly. The streets are straight,
level and wide, in most cases planted (although
quite sparsely) with trees. There are often
small gardens near the houses.

361 The wooden houses of Vernyy, which look
342 like Russian huts with wooden roofs, are almost
all cold, first of all because they are caulked
up not with moss (1) but with hay, which /421/
partly rots, and is partly dragged apart by the
birds, for which reason cracks are always forming
in the walls.

361 *In the town are two bazaars: the Taranchi*
 366 one (in the fortress), and the Chinese (in the outskirts). The bazaars differ from the Central Asian ones in that the stalls are somewhat more roomy and counters have been installed, which obstruct the entrance and divide the interior premises from the buyers. The bazaar streets are not covered above, as a result of which they are not protected from rain or heat. In the Chinese bazaar women often trade in the stalls, and here occasionally one sees flowers, a purely Chinese feature, since in the Central Asian Moslem towns the sale of flowers would be considered the height of absurdity.

[1965] In the Chinese part of town there are several restaurants at the bazaar in which those who wish can eat their fill for about 20 kopecks; the hungry man gorges himself on sweets. In these restaurants a remarkable variety of dishes is prepared. In order to enter a restaurant one must first pass through the kitchen, which is directly on the street to arouse the olfactory senses of the passer-by. In spite of the fact that the kitchens are kept very tidy and the preparation of the food is quite clean, a sharp and suffocating smell announces the presence of a restaurant at quite a long distance, and a European must have very strong nerves to bear this smell for very long.

• [1963] The main streets in town are paved with
 [312] small stones. Aryks are laid out among them, nicely laid with brick. On the whole, the town is miserable and dirty, and the Chinese section is particularly dirty. However the movement of people is greater in the Chinese section, while in the Taranchi bazaar the staid Moslems sit sedately in their booths, yawning and